

**For Immediate Release  
March 28, 2011**

## **Columbus Pothole Patching Crews Exceed Goal For Fixing Potholes During Intensified Two-Week Initiative**

City of Columbus pothole patching crews repaired 20,806 potholes during a two-week intensified pothole repair initiative March 14-25, surpassing their goal of 20,000. The pothole effort was completed within regular working hours of first, second and third shift employees at no additional costs, without using overtime.

**“I am so proud of our pothole patching crews for their work to make Columbus streets safer after their work clearing the snow during a very cold winter,” Mayor Coleman said. “Once again, they have shown their commitment to improving the quality of life in Columbus.”**

In addition to using the customary 311 Customer Service Center to report pothole locations, Mayor Coleman also invited residents to report potholes through Facebook and Twitter at Report Columbus Potholes or through Twitter @Rpt\_CbusPothole. Separate from the 311, Facebook and Twitter reports, city crews are also routinely deployed to locate and fix potholes.

While the intensified March pothole repair effort has been completed, pothole patching remains a year-round city of Columbus priority. Residents are encouraged to report a pothole by contacting 311 at 311 or 645-3111, or online at [www.311.columbus.gov](http://www.311.columbus.gov); through April 1, residents are invited to continue to report potholes through Facebook or Twitter. To help the city better serve residents, residents are asked to include the location of the pothole by referencing the address of a home or business closest to the pothole.

The standard for pothole repair is within three days after a service request is filed with 311. The standard may go beyond three days when:

- A very large volume of potholes are being reported
- Snow, ice or rain storm that prohibit pothole patching; In these instances, the standard is to patch potholes as soon as possible

The severity of winter weather and the general condition of city streets drive the number of potholes. Over the past five years, the city has patched an average of 108,551 potholes.

The city is responsible for repairing potholes on 6,348 lane miles of roadway; a lane mile is one mile of roadway multiplied by the number of lanes on the roadway.

The two-week pothole repair effort was funded through the Department of Public Service's Street Construction Maintenance Fund.

### **City of Columbus Pothole Patching Fact Sheet**

- ◆ The City of Columbus patches potholes on City of Columbus streets and parts of State routes 315, 33 and 104 that are in the City of Columbus
  - ODOT is responsible for patching potholes on I-70, I-71, I-270 and I-670

- ◆ Columbus' Pothole Patching crews are responsible for 6,348 lane miles of roadway.
  - This effort is measured in lane miles because potholes can occur in each lane of a roadway
  - A lane mile is defined as one mile of roadway multiplied by the number of lanes in the roadway. For example:
    - 1-mile stretch of roadway x 5 lanes in the roadway = 5 lane miles
  
- ◆ Pothole Patching policy and practice:
  - The process for patching potholes begins two different ways:
    - Residents contact 311 (call 311 or 645-3111, or online at [www.311.columbus.gov](http://www.311.columbus.gov)) to notify the City of the location of a pothole. Please include an address or nearest address of a home or business where the pothole is located to help us serve you better. The locations are then forwarded to the Department of Public Service to be scheduled for patching, **or**
    - Separate from, and in addition to, 311 requests, Department of Public Service crews are routinely deployed to locate and patch potholes. These deployments are proactive standard practice that works in tandem with 311 requests to find and patch potholes.
  
- ◆ Patching potholes is a City of Columbus priority:
  - The City's standard: Potholes are typically patched within three (3) days after a service request is filed with 311 to do so
  - This standard may go beyond three days because of:
    - A very large volume of potholes being reported. In these instances, the standard is to patch potholes as soon as possible
    - A snow, ice or rain storm prohibits pothole patching
  
- ◆ Columbus' Pothole Patching crews are responsible for 227 square miles, much more than their counterparts in other Ohio cities:
  - Cleveland: 82 square miles
  - Toledo: 80 square miles
  - Cincinnati: 79 square miles
  - Dayton: 57 square miles
  - Dublin: 26 square miles
  - Grove City: 16.2 square miles
  - Gahanna: 12 square miles
  - Reynoldsburg: 12 square miles
  - Hilliard: 11.5 square miles
  - Upper Arlington: 9.67 square miles
  - Pickerington: 9.58 square miles
  - Worthington: 5 square miles
  - Bexley: 2.5 square miles
  
- ◆ Columbus' pothole repair crews are responsible for more than 6,300 lane miles of roadway, more than any other Ohio city (or, 2,053 linear miles, approximately the distance between Columbus and Las Vegas)
  - Cleveland: 3,000 lane miles
  - Cincinnati: 2,986 lane miles
  - Toledo: 2,700 lane miles
  - Dayton: 1,600 lane miles

- Dublin: 502 lane miles
  - Westerville: 409 lane miles
  - Reynoldsburg: 270 lane miles
  - Worthington: 176 lane miles
  - Gahanna: 140 lane miles
- ◆ Hot patching potholes
    - During winter, is most effective above freezing (32°).
    - However, hot patch, at 300 degrees, does not bond well with the dramatically colder pavement in cold winter weather, including cold temperatures above freezing
      - The hot patch shrinks away from, and does not conform to, the surrounding asphalt and the contours inside the pothole.
      - Because hot patch does not bond well with a cold pothole and pavement, it is like cold patch: a temporary fix
      - Therefore, cold patch is typically used during winter months
      - Cold patch is less expensive (\$75/ton) than hot patch purchased during the winter from a private vendor (\$100/ton)
- ◆ Cold patching potholes
    - Cold patch is a temporary fix designed to repair potholes until they can be hot patched during warmer weather in the spring and summer if the cold patched hole reopens
    - Lifespan of a cold patch varies and is affected by traffic volume and speed of the roadway where the cold patch is made
- ◆ City does have a limited supply of hot patch that it produces in an asphalt recycling machine.
    - The recycled asphalt is the waste asphalt when a street is torn up for resurfacing or reconstruction.
- ◆ Columbus pothole repair crews fixed 20,806 potholes in an intensified pothole repair effort March 14-25, 2011
    - Columbus pothole crews repaired 34,555 potholes in an intensified pothole repair effort March 1-31, 2010, following the snowiest February in Columbus' history and a very cold and snowy 2009-10 winter season
    - Columbus pothole crews fixed 12,400 potholes in March 2009
- ◆ Total potholes patched
    - 2010: 133,517 potholes patched
    - 2009: 114,475 potholes patched
    - 2008: 115,390 potholes patched
    - 2007: 70,183 potholes patched
    - 2006: 70,618 potholes patched
- ◆ Total cost for asphalt (hot mix and cold mix) purchased to patch potholes
    - 2010: \$318,015 (5,126 tons)
    - 2009: \$355,390.84 (3,893 tons)
    - 2008: \$391,132.73 (4,214 tons)
    - 2007: \$183,910.50 (3,194 tons)

- 2006: \$177,550.03 (3,769 tons)
- ◆ Tons of hot patch used
  - 2010: 4,346 tons
  - 2009: 3,100 tons
  - 2008: 3,208 tons
  - 2007: 2,636 tons
  - 2006: 3,367 tons
- ◆ Tons of cold patch used
  - 2010: 780 tons
  - 2009: 793 tons
  - 2008: 1,006 tons
  - 2007: 558 tons
  - 2006: 402 tons
- ◆ Columbus Pothole Patchers have other job responsibilities including, but not limited to:
  - Snow removal
  - Street cleaning
  - Alley surfacing treatment
  - Mowing
  - Underpass cleaning
  - Graffiti removal